

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-14 are now present in the application. Claims 3 and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 9, and 12 have been amended. Claims 1 and 9 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §§119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

II. Drawings

Applicants have not received a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review PTO-948 indicating whether or not the formal drawings have been approved by the Draftsperson. Since no objection has been received, Applicants assume that the drawings are acceptable and that no further action is necessary. Confirmation thereof in the next Office Action is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gyoda, U.S. Pub. No. US 2002/063842 A1. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection based on Gyoda has been obviated

and/or rendered moot. While not conceding to the Examiner's rejection, but merely to expedite prosecution, as the Examiner will note, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements including "moving the substrate in one direction" and "depositing the emitted liquid crystal material uniformly onto the substrate during the movement of the substrate in the one direction". Similarly, independent claim 9 has been amended to recite a combination of elements including "a stage for moving the substrate in one direction during emitting of the liquid crystal material from the projecting portion uniformly onto the substrate." Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 9 are not disclosed or suggested by Gyoda.

Gyoda in FIGs. 6 and 7 discloses an ink-jet nozzle 50 including a nozzle plate 51, a vibrator 52 having a piezoelectric element 59, a reservoir 55, and a nozzle aperture 57. However, Gyoda also discloses that "there is no need for applying droplets of the electro-optical material over the entire internal area ... on each substrate" because "the applied electro-optical material flows and spreads over ... on the substrate"; and that "[i]t suffices to apply one drop 61 or several drops 61 at localized points in the internal area surrounded by the uncured sealing member 14A of each counter substrate formation region 12a." (Gyoda, page 3, paragraph 36, and page 9, paragraph 111.) Hence, Gyoda fails to teach a uniform deposition of liquid crystal material onto the substrate because it only suggests applying one or several drops at localized points. In addition, Gyoda also fails to disclose depositing the liquid crystal material uniformly onto the substrate during the movement of the substrate in the one direction. Accordingly, Gyoda fails to disclose those aspects of the present invention as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 9. Since Gyoda fails to teach each and every limitation of

independent claims 1 and 9, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1 and 9 are not anticipated by Gyoda.

In addition, claims 2, 4-8, 10, and 12-14 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 9, and are therefore not anticipated by Gyoda.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-14 clearly define the present invention over the reference relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gyoda in view of Kawasumi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,065). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

As noted above, Gyoda fails to disclose "depositing the emitted liquid crystal material uniformly onto the substrate during the movement of the substrate in the one direction" as set forth in amended independent claim 1 or "a stage for moving the substrate in one direction during emitting of the liquid crystal material from the projecting portion uniformly onto the substrate" as set forth in amended independent claim 9.

Kawasumi also fails to cure the deficiencies of Gyoda. Although Kawasumi discloses a stage 34 and a driving mechanism including a driving source 36 and guiding rails 38 for driving the stage 34, it fails to disclose a uniform deposition of liquid crystal material during the movement of the substrate in the one direction. In particular,

Kawasumi's driving mechanism is used for pressing the substrate to expand the liquid crystal material, which has been dropped on the one end portion of a bottom substrate before the substrate is pressed. (See Kawasumi, col. 17, lines 64-67; col. 18, lines 1-16; and FIGs. 10B, 10C, and 12.) *I.e.*, the liquid crystal material is deposited onto the substrate before the movement of the substrate, rather than deposited during the movement of the substrate. In addition, the liquid crystal material is not deposited onto the substrate uniformly because it is dropped only on the one end portion of a bottom substrate. Accordingly, Kawasumi also fails to disclose those aspects of the present invention as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 9.

Accordingly, neither Gyoda nor Kawasumi individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of amended independent claims 1 and 9. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1 and 9 clearly define over the teachings of Gyoda in view of Kawasumi.

In addition, claims 2, 4-8, 10 and 12-14 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 9, and are therefore allowable based on their respective dependence from independent claims 1 and 9 which are believed to be allowable.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-14 clearly define the present invention over the references relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

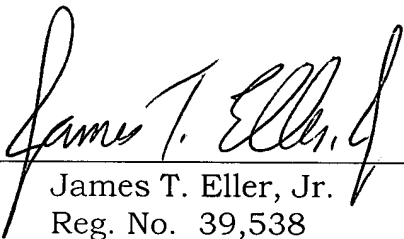
In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact James T. Eller, Jr., Registration No. 39,538 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Applicant respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) and 1.17 for a one-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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